

Please add the following new claim:

~~29~~ 29. A method of detecting a polynucleotide encoding a human telomerase gene product in a sample comprising:

a) contacting the sample with a probe that specifically binds the polynucleotide, wherein the probe and the polynucleotide form a complex, and detecting the complex; or,

b) specifically amplifying the polynucleotide in the sample and detecting the amplification product;

wherein the presence of the complex or amplification product is correlated with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding a human telomerase gene product in the biological sample.

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for an election of species for examination in paper 26, Applicants elect species (e), ("polypeptides, polynucleotides, and methods of detecting human sequences").

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled the claims and added new Claim 29.¹ Claim 29 is directed to a method of detecting human sequences. The new claim finds support in original Claim 8 (now canceled). Claim 8 was directed to a method of detecting a human sequence, as noted in the preamble and because SEQ. ID. NO:100, recited in claim 8, is a human sequence corresponding to the sequence of Fig. 47 of the specification. Additional support for new claim 29 is found in the specification at, e.g., page 20, line 8 to page 22, line 5 and page 51, line 20 to page 55, line 4. Although new claim 29 does not

¹ Applicants have numbered the new claim in this response "claim 29" because claims 27 and 28 were submitted in a Preliminary Amendment filed June 10, 1999, and it is Applicants' belief that the Preliminary Amendment was entered. The present Office Action (paper 26) indicates that claims 1-26 were pending, which Applicants believe may be a typographical error. If Applicants' understanding of the claim status is incorrect, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner renumber the new claim above as appropriate.